

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Dallas, Texas

Internet Access Tips

The Bureau of Labor Statistics offers two "self-service" methods to quickly retrieve various types of economic information. If you need routine data (i.e., the latest CPI or U.S. unemployment rate) the best method may be our automated fax-on-demand system. By calling **214-767-9613** and entering a document code you can receive the latest information on many programs. The documents will be sent directly to your fax machine in about 15 seconds. A catalog of the most frequently requested codes in the Dallas Region may be obtained by calling the system, pressing the number 1, and then entering document code 9000. If you would like a listing of *all* available documents simply call the system and enter the number 2 after the recorded introduction.

The same information is also available on the Worldwide Web. In addition, more detailed or less frequently requested data (such as average hourly earnings in computer programming services, the Employment Cost Index for blue-collar workers, and Producer Price Indexes for petroleum refining) can be found through the Bureau's Homepage at <http://www.bls.gov/>. (A portion of that page is displayed below.)

The screenshot shows the Bureau of Labor Statistics homepage in a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The address bar displays <http://www.bls.gov/>. The page features a navigation bar with links: [About BLS](#), [Jobs in BLS](#), [Get Detailed Statistics](#), [Economic News Releases](#), [Topics A-Z](#), [Glossary](#), and [What's New](#). The main content area is organized into three columns. The left column contains links for **Inflation & Consumer Spending** (CPI, Inflation Calculator, Contract Escalation, PPI, Import/Export Price Indexes, Consumer Expenditures), **Wages, Earnings, & Benefits** (Wages by Area and Occupation, Earnings by Industry, Employee Benefits, Employment Costs, State and County Wages, National Compensation Data, Collective Bargaining), **Productivity** (Productivity and Costs, Multifactor Productivity, International Comparisons), **Safety & Health** (Injuries and Illnesses, Fatalities), and **International** (Import/Export Price Indexes, Foreign Labor Statistics). The middle column, titled **Latest Numbers**, provides current data for CPI (+0.4% in Sep 2001), Unemployment Rate (4.9% in Sep 2001), Payroll Employment (-199,000(p) in Sep 2001), Average Hourly Earnings (+\$0.03(p) in Sep 2001), PPI (+0.4%(p) in Sep 2001), ECI (+1.0% in 3rd Qtr of 2001), Productivity (+2.1% in 2nd Qtr of 2001), and U.S. Import Price Index (+0.3% in Sep 2001). It also includes a note about preliminary data and links to [Subscribe to BLS News](#) and [Publication Schedule](#). The right column contains links for **Employment & Unemployment** (National Employment, National Unemployment Rate, State and Local Employment, State and Local Unemployment Rates, Mass Layoffs, Employment Projections, Job Openings and Labor Turnover, Employment by Occupation, Longitudinal Studies, State and County Employment, Time Use), **At a Glance Tables** (U.S. Economy at a Glance, Regions, States, and Areas at a Glance, Industries at a Glance), and **Publications & Research Papers** (Occupational Outlook Handbook, Monthly Labor Review Online, Compensation and Working Conditions, Occupational Outlook Quarterly, The Editor's Desk, Career Guide to Industries, Economic News Releases, Research Papers, More). A 'People are asking...' section is partially visible at the bottom. The browser's status bar at the bottom right indicates 'Local intranet'.

If you scroll down the homepage you will see a map of the U.S. labeled "Regional Resources." Clicking on a particular area will take you to that region's homepage. It is quite possible that questions regarding local states or metropolitan areas may be quickly answered through the "Regional Economy," "Most Requested Statistics," or "Economic News Releases" links on those pages. The Dallas Information Office homepage is shown on the following page.

Southwest Information Office Home Page - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Address http://www.bls.gov/ro6/home.htm

Southwest Information Office (Dallas, TX)

Bureau of Labor Statistics
U.S. Department of Labor

BLS Home • BLS Information Offices • Programs & Surveys • Topics A-Z • Glossary • What's New

The Southwest BLS Information Office in Dallas services the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

- General Information
- Special Notices
- Quick Link
 - Southwest Regional Economy
 - Census Region at a Glance
 - Get Detailed Statistics
- Economic News Releases & Tables Created by BLS
 - Inflation & Consumer Spending
 - Employment & Unemployment
 - Wages, Earnings & Benefits
- Need Help?
 - Frequently asked questions
 - Ways to obtain data
 - Related links
 - Contact Us

General Information: Top

Services provided to the public:

Latest Numbers

ECI Total Compensation, private industry workers

United States

3-Month % Change: 0.9% in 3rd Qtr of 2001

12-Month % Change: 4.0% in 3rd Qtr of 2001

Northeast

3-Month % Change: 1.0% in 3rd Qtr of 2001

12-Month % Change: 4.0% in 3rd Qtr of 2001

South

3-Month % Change: 0.8% in 3rd Qtr of 2001

12-Month % Change: 4.0% in 3rd Qtr of 2001

Midwest

3-Month % Change: 0.9% in 3rd Qtr of 2001

12-Month % Change: 3.4% in 3rd Qtr of 2001

West

3-Month % Change: 1.0% in 3rd Qtr of 2001

Going back to the Bureau's Homepage, the second major topic shown on the right-hand side of the screen is "At a Glance Tables." This site can be very useful if you are looking for a wide variety of current statistics for national, regional, state, or metropolitan economies. The section quickly pulls up tabular formatted data for the most frequently requested information for the specified area (see below). Links to historical data -- indicated by the "dinosaur" icons -- as well as charts, are clearly marked. The tabular pages also list additional links where further information may be researched or obtained.

United States Economy at a Glance - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Address http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.us.htm

U.S. Economy at a Glance

















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OTHER AVAILABLE AT A GLANCE TABLES

Text Version

About the data

Data Series	Back Data	Apr 2001	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001	Aug 2001	Sept 2001
Unemployment Rate ⁽¹⁾	 	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.9	4.9
Change in Payroll Employment ⁽²⁾	 	-165	41	-99	18	-84 (P)	-199 (P)
Average Hourly Earnings ⁽³⁾	 	14.21	14.24	14.31	14.34	14.41 (P)	14.44 (P)
Consumer Price Index ⁽⁴⁾	 	0.3	0.4	0.2	-0.3	0.1	0.4
Producer Price Index ⁽⁵⁾	 	0.5	0.1	-0.5 (P)	-0.9 (P)	0.4 (P)	0.4 (P)
U.S. Import Price Index ⁽⁶⁾	 	-0.6	0.3	-0.4	-1.5	-0.2	0.3
Employment Cost Index ⁽⁷⁾	 		0.9			1.0	
Productivity ⁽⁸⁾	 		2.1				

Footnotes:

(1) In percent, seasonally adjusted. Annual averages are available for [Not Seasonally Adjusted data](#).

(2) Number of jobs, in thousands, seasonally adjusted.

(3) For production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls, seasonally adjusted.

(4) For all urban consumers, seasonally adjusted.

(5) For all urban consumers, seasonally adjusted.

(6) For all urban consumers, seasonally adjusted.

(7) For all urban consumers, seasonally adjusted.

(8) For all urban consumers, seasonally adjusted.

The topics on the Bureau's Homepage are organized by general area of interest. For example, if you are interested in "**Consumer Price Indexes**," click that sub-category under "**Inflation and Consumer Spending**." You will be taken to the Bureau's Homepage for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Program (shown below). If your questions are of a general nature such as data availability, uses, or methodology, the best choice is to click on one of the topics under "**General Overview**" or "**Frequently Asked Questions**." Access to news releases, data searches, and other items of interest are listed on each Program homepage.

Consumer Price Indexes

Bureau of Labor Statistics
U.S. Department of Labor

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The **Consumer Price Indexes (CPI)** program produces monthly data on changes in the prices paid by urban consumers for a representative basket of goods and services.

- [General Overview](#)
- [Economic News Releases](#)
- [Get Detailed Statistics](#)
- [Tables Created by BLS](#)
- [Special Notices](#)
- [Publications and Other Documentation](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

General Overview:

[Data Available](#) | [Coverage](#) | [Reference Period](#) | [Source of Data](#) | [Forms of Publication](#) | [Uses of the Data](#) | [Major Research in Progress](#) | [Measurement Issues](#)

Economic News Releases:

Current

- [Consumer Price Index \(TXT\)\(PDF\)](#)
- [Subscribe to the BLS News Service](#) -- receive the Consumer

Latest Numbers

CPI-U, US City Average, All Items:

- [\(NSA\)](#) +0.5% in Sep 2001
- [\(SA\)](#) +0.4% in Sep 2001
- [\(NSA\)](#) +2.6% since Sep 2000

CPI-U, US City Average, All Items Less Food and Energy:

- [\(NSA\)](#) +0.3% in Sep 2001
- [\(SA\)](#) +0.2% in Sep 2001
- [\(NSA\)](#) +2.6% since Sep 2000

CPI-U, US City Average, Medical Care:

- [\(NSA\)](#) +0.2% in Sep 2001
- [\(SA\)](#) +0.3% in Sep 2001
- [\(NSA\)](#) +4.5% since Sep 2000

CPI-W, US City Average, All Items:

- [\(NSA\)](#) +0.6% in Sep 2001
- [\(SA\)](#) +0.5% in Sep 2001
- [\(NSA\)](#) +2.6% since Sep 2000

» SA- Seasonally Adjusted
» NSA- Not Seasonally Adjusted

Nearly all of the Bureau's programs now have access to a simplified query system. From the specific Program Homepage (such as National Compensation Survey: Compensation Cost Trends shown on the following page), scroll down to the sub-heading of "**Get Detailed Statistics**." It will be worth your time to take a look at "**Most Requested Statistics**," but if this section doesn't have the information you need, then click on "**Create Customized Tables (one screen)**" -- previously known as *Public Data Query*. A new Internet window will open showing the screen for a "point and select" search for the particular program. An example of the "Query" system for the Employment Cost Index (ECI) is shown on the following page. (Note: Due to program data variations, most program screens will vary slightly from one another.) Regardless of the program, simply select the option desired under each of the bold, red numbers. For example, suppose you want to find the ECI for wages in private industry for All Workers and Sales Occupations. Select the following options under each of the numbered sections: 1) click Wages and Salaries; 2) click Private Industry; 3) click Index number; 4) click All Workers AND Sales Occupations; 5) if unsure of data needs, click both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted (this will retrieve both sets of data if available). Finally click "**Get Data**" under the number 6. A new Internet window will open to display the information. After printing the data screen, you should simply close that window. The Public Data Query window will remain open to allow further selections.

Homepage for Compensation Cost Trends Program

(red arrow points to "Public Data Query")

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Compensation Cost Trends Program. The browser window title is "Compensation Cost Trends Home Page - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Bureau of Labor Statistics". The address bar shows "http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ect/home.htm". The page has a navigation menu on the left with links: "Tables Created by BLS", "Publications and Other Documentation", "Related Links", "Frequently Asked Questions", and "Contact Us". The main content area is divided into several sections: "General Overview" with links to "Summary", "Data Collection", "Survey Methodology", and "Data Usage"; "Special Notices" with a "NEW" announcement about the September 11 attacks; "Economic News Releases" with links to "Employment Cost Index (TXT)", "Employer Costs for Employee Compensation (TXT)", and a subscription link; and "Get Detailed Statistics" with links to "Most Requested Statistics" and "Create Customized Tables (one screen)". A red arrow points to the "Create Customized Tables (one screen)" link. On the right side, there are two boxes: "3-Month % Change (SA)" and "12-Month % Change (NSA)" for both "State and Local Government, Compensation" and "All workers". Below these are "People are asking..." questions and a "Send us your question" link.

Compensation Cost Trends Home Page - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Bureau of Labor Statistics

Address: <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ect/home.htm>

- Tables Created by BLS
- Publications and Other Documentation
- Related Links
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Contact Us

General Overview: [Summary](#) | [Data Collection](#) | [Survey Methodology](#) | [Data Usage](#)

Special Notices:

NEW The terrorist attacks on September 11 occurred during the reference period for the September Employment Cost Index. For more information, see the fact sheet from the [National Compensation Survey program](#).

Economic News Releases:

- Employment Cost Index (TXT) (PDF 99K)
- Employer Costs for Employee Compensation (TXT) (PDF 143K)
- Subscribe to the [BLS News Service](#)-- receive the Employment Cost Index news release by e-mail

Get Detailed Statistics:

- [Most Requested Statistics](#)-- select from lists of the most popular Compensation Cost Trends statistics (ECI & ECEC)
- [Create Customized Tables \(one screen\)](#) --this application (previously called "Public Data Query") requires a Java-enabled browser. Choose the data you want from BLS

3-Month % Change (SA)
0.9% in 3rd Qtr of 2001

12-Month % Change (NSA)
4.0% in 3rd Qtr of 2001

State and Local Government, Compensation

3-Month % Change (SA)
1.4% in 3rd Qtr of 2001

12-Month % Change (NSA)
4.4% in 3rd Qtr of 2001

» SA- Seasonally Adjusted
» NSA- Not Seasonally Adjusted
» Click on the icon for 10-years of historical data.

People are asking...

1. Is the ECI adjusted for inflation?
2. What is the Employment Cost index for individual occupations in the U.S.?
3. How can I get annualized ECI data?
4. What's the average raise?
5. What are the potential effects of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 on the Employment Cost Index (ECI)?

[Send us your question](#)

Public Data Query -- Employment Cost Index

(red arrow indicates button used for multiple selections)

The screenshot shows the "Public Data Query: ec - Employment Cost Index" form in Microsoft Internet Explorer. The browser window title is "Public Data Query: ec - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Bureau of Labor Statistics". The address bar shows "http://data.bls.gov/labjava/outside.jsp?survey=ec". The form is divided into five numbered sections: 1. Select a Compensation Component (Total compensation, Wages and salaries, Benefits); 2. Select Economy Sector (Civilian, Private industry, State and local government); 3. Select Index Number or Change Periodicity (12 month percent cha, Index number, 3 month percent chan); 4. Select one or more Series (a list of series including "All workers", "Production and non-supervisory occupations", etc.); 5. Select Seasonal Adjustment (Seasonally Adjusted, Not Seasonally Adjusted). A red arrow points to the "Get Data" button in section 6. Below the "Get Data" button are links for "OR for Multiple Queries" and "Add To Your Selection ->". The "Your Selection" box shows "(0 series selected)". A note says "NOTE: Select a maximum of 200 series." The status bar at the bottom says "Applet started" and "Local intranet".

Public Data Query: ec - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Bureau of Labor Statistics

Address: <http://data.bls.gov/labjava/outside.jsp?survey=ec>

Employment Cost Index [HELP](#)

1 Select a Compensation Component

☐ Total compensation
☒ Wages and salaries
☐ Benefits

2 Select Economy Sector

☐ Civilian
☒ Private industry
☐ State and local government

3 Select Index Number or Change Periodicity

☐ 12 month percent cha
☒ Index number
☐ 3 month percent chan

4 Select one or more Series

000 All workers
101 Production and non-supervisory occupations
110 White-collar occupations
111 Executive, administrative, and managerial occupations
112 Professional, specialty, and technical occupations
113 Sales occupations
114 Administrative support, including clerical, occupations
120 Blue-collar occupations
121 Precision, production, craft, and repair occupations
122 Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors occupations

5 Select Seasonal Adjustment

☒ Seasonally Adjusted
☒ Not Seasonally Adjusted

6

Your Selection: (0 series selected) NOTE: Select a maximum of 200 series.

Applet started

Local intranet

It is possible to make multiple selections before retrieving data by clicking the **"Add To Your Selection"** button rather than **"Get Data"** under number 6. (See red arrow on previous screen depiction.) If you want to retrieve both the Index number and the 12-month percent change, for the ECI, simply follow all of the steps indicated in the preceding paragraph. However, instead of clicking "Get Data," click "Add To Your Selection." The codes and a description of the index series will appear in the **"Your Selection"** box. Now go back to number 3 and click on "12-month percent change." Under number 4, re-select "All Workers" and "Sales Occupations." Under number 6, again click "Add To Your Selection." Then click "Get Data." Both the indexes and the 12-month percent changes will appear in a new Internet window.

The Bureau has extensive information on wages and pay. Using the **National Compensation Survey**, you can search a specific city for average salaries by occupation and level or you can compare a particular job salary in many different metropolitan areas. From the Bureau's Homepage, click on **"National Compensation Data"** (under the main heading **"Wages, Earnings, & Benefits."**). From the next page, click on the underlined section entitled **"Occupational Earnings."** Then select **"Public Data Query."** The result is the screen below which allows a search for multiple occupations within a single area. If instead you wish to select a single occupation and compare salaries in different census regions, click **"View areas within an occupation"** at the top of the screen (indicated by red arrow). As in the previous example, make your selections in numbers 1 through 3. Then to choose additional areas or jobs, click "Add to Your Selection" on number 4. Finally click "Get Data."

Public Data Query: nc - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Address <http://data.bls.gov/labjava/outside.jsp?survey=nc> Go

National Compensation Survey **OVERVIEW** **HELP**

Select how you want to view the data

☒ View occupations within an area ☐ View areas within an occupation

1 Select an Area Find

Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson, SC
TENNESSEE
Knoxville, TN
Memphis, TN-AR-MS
TEXAS
Amarillo, TX
Andrews County, TX
Austin-San Marcos, TX
Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito, TX
Corpus Christi, TX
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX

2 Select an Occupation Find

All occupations
All occupations, excluding sales
White collar occupations
White collar occupations, excluding sales
Professional specialty and technical occupations
Professional specialty occupations
Engineers, architects, and surveyors
Electrical and electronic engineers
Industrial engineers
Engineers, n.e.c.

3 Select a Work Level

Overall occupation average (no work level) OR Get help choosing a Work Level

4 Get Data

OR for Multiple Queries

Add To Your Selection ->

Your Selection: (0 series selected) NOTE: Select a maximum of 200 series.

Applet started Local intranet

The Bureau's Public Data Query system is easy to use and formats the data for viewing and printing in a traditional Web style. For users who wish to download data for use in their own spreadsheets or programs, the methodology for changing formats is simple. After retrieving data using **Public Data Query**, click on "**Reformat**" button located at the top of the window. When presented with the reformatting options select your **Output Format** (table or column), select the items and dates to be shown (i.e., indexes or percent changes). Under **Output Type**, click on "Text (comma delimited)" and then click Retrieve. If you want to copy the data for use in a worksheet, use your mouse to highlight the data and select **Edit/Copy** from the main Web menu. Switch to your worksheet program and paste the data into place. (Your worksheet may require "Special Pasting" as "Unicode Text" as well as additional commands such as "parsing" or "text to data.")

If your company has a frequent need for historical Producer Price Indexes (PPIs), the "**Series Report**" program (accessed from the PPI Homepage via "Get Detailed Statistics") will be your best method. For *commodity codes* (table 6 from the PPI book), simply type the letters WPU in front of the codes you wish to request. For example, to retrieve data on commodity codes 1017 and 119102, type WPU1017 and WPU119102. If you need *industry codes* (table 5 in the PPI book) the database numbering system is slightly more complicated. Begin by typing the letters PCU at the beginning of the numeric code and placing a pound sign (#) between the first 4 digits and any remaining characters. If the PPI industry code has less than 4 digits, then type an underscore (_) in the missing digit(s) area and finish with a pound sign. For example, to retrieve industry codes 2911-1342 and 29, type PCU2911#1342 and PCU29_ _#. (See picture below.) After entering the codes in the white box, scroll down the page using the *far right-hand scroll bar* (indicated by red arrow) and make any changes desired in the data presentation. (The default selections are normally sufficient.) Finally, click "Retrieve Data."

If you need further assistance using our automated fax system or the Internet site, or if you need to speak to someone concerning interpretation of the data, please call the **Dallas Economic Analysis and Information Unit** at 214-767-6970.